

*** * REASONS FOR AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS * ***

Applicants wish to acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's analysis and efforts in examining this application.

As a preliminary matter, the related applications section was amended to include United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/027,668 filed on October 7, 1996, which completes this application's claim of priority. Submitted concurrently with this response is a letter requesting correction of filing receipt to reflect the amendment. In addition, several minor amendments were made to the specification, pursuant the Examiner's objections thereof.

On page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner determined that there was no clear antecedent basis for "the jaw arm" as recited in Claim 1, line 7.

Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a "jaw member" which has sufficient antecedent basis therein.

Further on page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, and 4-6, as understood, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Forster et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite first and second jaw members that are pivotable about coincident axes. Support for this amendment is clearly visible throughout the drawings. Forster teaches jaw members being pivotable about separate axes. Accordingly, Forster fails to teach the claimed invention.

Also on page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Patton. The Examiner alleges that Patton shows a gripper assembly comprising cam slots (26) having substantially straight end portions and a curved middle portion (see Fig. 2).

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The patent reference discloses an improved “jaws of life” which is designed for spreading, crushing, or cutting. See Col. 3, Lines 42-44. Moreover, Patton, like Forster, does not teach having first and second jaw members being pivotable about coincident axes, as claimed in Claim 1 of the present application.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McPherson. The Examiner alleges that McPherson shows a gripping device comprising a cam slot (22) having a generally straight locking or clamping portion (60) and a curved pivoting portion (i.e., the transition portion between 58 and 60 as best shown in Figure 5).

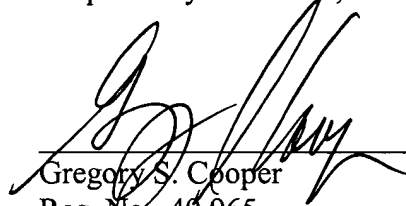
Claim 1 has been amended to comprise first and second opposable jaw members. Support for this amendment is clearly visible throughout the drawings. McPherson discloses a single jaw member, thus, failing to disclose any opposable jaw members pivotal in opposite directions about coincident axes. Clearly McPherson does not disclose or teach the claimed invention as amended.

Serial No. 10/614607
Docket No. 614359-82664

If, upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. To the extent additional fees are required, please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (614359/82664) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory S. Cooper
Reg. No. 40,965
Direct Line (260) 425-4660

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